

July 7, 2026

PRESS STATEMENT

RE: THE PURPORTED DIRECTIONS OF THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION ON THE 2026 NBA NATIONAL OFFICERS' ELECTION

The Eastern Bar Forum (EBF), having carefully considered the document circulating in the public domain purporting to contain the Report of the 3-Man Committee and the subsequent Directions and Outcomes of the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation concerning the forthcoming 2026 Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) National Officers' Election, has deemed it necessary to state its position.

The Eastern Bar Forum acknowledges and appreciates every genuine effort aimed at fostering peace, reconciliation and unity within the Nigerian Bar Association. As members of the legal profession, we remain committed to dialogue and amicable resolution of disputes whenever circumstances permit. However, such laudable objectives must always be pursued within the bounds of the law and the Constitution of the Nigerian Bar Association.

The NBA is an independent professional association whose affairs are regulated by the Legal Practitioners Act and the Constitution of the Nigerian Bar Association. Consequently, decisions relating to the conduct, postponement or cancellation of its national elections can only be taken by organs constitutionally empowered to do so under the NBA Constitution. Any recommendation or directive from any person or authority outside the constitutional framework of the Association cannot supersede the provisions of the NBA Constitution.

Accordingly, the Eastern Bar Forum is of the considered and firm view that the proposed disbandment of the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA), postponement of the scheduled election, appointment

Members of the Governing Council

Damian Nosike - Chairman/ Governor
Wills U. O. Essien - Vice/ Chairman/ Deputy Governor
Samuel Akpadiagha Etuk, Esq. - Secretary

Ibekwe Jovita N. - Assistant Secretary
Emmanuel Nnaemeka Nwambam - Treasurer
Felix Suku - Financial Secretary

Ejiofor Chidozie L. - Welfare Secretary
Peter Ayogu Ph d - Publicity Secretary
Oko Ebe Uche - Legal Adviser

of a caretaker committee, replacement of the service provider, or any proposed alteration of the electoral framework or constitutional structure of the NBA cannot validly take effect except through the constitutional processes established by the Nigerian Bar Association itself.

We urge all members of the Bar to remain calm, conduct themselves with utmost decorum and place the unity, integrity and collective interest of the legal profession above all personal or sectional interests.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Eastern Bar Forum aligns itself with and adopts the position expressed by the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, in his Press Statement on the subject, particularly as it relates to the constitutional autonomy of the Nigerian Bar Association, the supremacy of its Constitution in regulating its affairs, and the continuation of the electoral process in accordance with the provisions of the NBA Constitution unless otherwise lawfully determined by the competent organs of the Association or a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Eastern Bar Forum remains resolute in its commitment to a united, independent and stronger Nigerian Bar Association.



DAMIAN O. NOSIKE
Chairman, Governing Council



SAMUEL AKPADIAGHA ETUK
Secretary, Governing Council